

## LESNER STARTS "RELIEF FUND"

For Use of Families  
of Murdered Carroll  
Officials.

## TO INCREASE THE REWARD

"Justice" Sends \$200 for Fund to  
Be Raised by Public Subscrip-  
tion and to Be Added to the  
Large Reward Already Of-  
fered by the Governor  
of Virginia.

HILLSVILLE RELIEF FUND.  
John A. Lesner, Norfolk, \$200.00  
POPULAR REWARD FUND.  
From "Justice," Richmond, \$200.00

When, one week ago to-day, four brave men and true—Judge Thornton L. Massie, Commonwealth's Attorney William M. Foster, Sheriff Lewis F. Webb and Juror C. C. Fowler—walked to death at assassins' hands for the honor of Virginia, the integrity of justice and sanctity of the law, they carried in their minds not only a knowledge of the fate in store for them, but the picture of loved ones at home dependent upon their life and health for support. Out of the first horror and shock of the terrible crime has finally come to Virginia men and women the recognition of what these women and children gave up for the Commonwealth. The people of Virginia have never been slow to honor, either in word or deed, the sacrifices made in their name, and from the first deep expressions of admiration for the heroic self-sacrifice has ultimately come visible tokens of appreciation.

To turn aside from these bereaved widows and children the relentless hand of want, a relief fund was yesterday initiated by Senator John A. Lesner, of Norfolk, with a contribution of \$200. Senator Lesner is one of many men in Virginia who believe that the best way of showing the State's appreciation of the heroic sacrifice of these heroes is to provide for their dependents. No matter in what light the subject is viewed, these women and children became the wards of Virginia, the legacy of a man who held life dear, from the moment when the murdering bullet ended their careers in this life.

Governor Approves.  
Being fully in sympathy with the laudable proposition of Senator Lesner, The Times-Dispatch gladly takes up the labor proposed by him, and will endeavor in every way possible to swell the fund which he so generously started. Urgent notice is given by Senator Lesner, The Times-Dispatch proposes to inaugurate a campaign for a fund to be used in alleviating the needs of whatever dependents were left by the four men slain in Hillsville on Thursday, March 14. Contributions should be sent addressed to the Times-Dispatch, Richmond, Va., and a daily statement of receipts will be published.

When approached by a reporter for The Times-Dispatch last night in regard to the relief fund, Governor Mann was enthusiastically in favor of the movement.

"You may say for me," said the Governor, "that I regard it as a most laudable undertaking and one which will reflect credit on the generosity and benevolence of the people. If it were in my power to take action on the part of the State, the dependent relatives of these martyrs would be put forever beyond danger of want. No more praiseworthy use of money can be made than in the subscription to this fund. I feel sure that if it was possible for the murdered heroes themselves to express their choice in regard to the way Virginia should commemorate their deaths they would be unanimous in approving the plan to care for their families."

While it is morally certain that the next Legislature will take steps toward providing for the maintenance of these wards of the State, it will be two years at the least before such action can be taken, and meanwhile something should be done immediately. In the case of Judge Massie and Commonwealth's Attorney Foster, life insurance in a small amount is left to the families, but, so far as is known, there is no such provision for the dependents of Sheriff Webb and Juror Fowler.

Senator Lesner's Letter.  
The text of the letter in which Senator Lesner makes his gift follows: "To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Referring to the pending and opportune editorial in your issue of March 16, 'Virginia's Debt to the Hillsville Heroes,' I desire to express my warmest appreciation of your suggestion that the Commonwealth should make fitting provision for the widows and children of these martyred public servants, and to assure you that such a movement will meet with my hearty support at the next session of the Legislature."

While I firmly believe that the Legislature will be quick to follow your views, the next session is still far in the future. In the meantime, the families of the noble men who gave up their lives in the performance of duty in the service of the Commonwealth should not be permitted to suffer. There is no time more opportune than the present to show our appreciation of the undying example of courageous devotion these dead heroes displayed, and some immediate provision for their families should be made. I am not advised as to the circumstances of their families or to what extent they are provided for, but I think that the people of the State should see that they are looked after, and it should be considered an honor for every citizen to contribute to that end.

An furtherance of this object, I am

## TRAN RUNS OVER DYNAMITE BOMBS

They Fail to Explode,  
and Secretary Knox  
Escapes.

## LIBERALS BLAMED FOR MURDER PLOT

Leaders of Party Deny That At-  
tempt Was Made on Life of  
Secretary of State, and Say  
Story Is Merely Ruse to  
Get Them Out of  
the Way.

New Orleans, La., March 20.—As the result of the alleged discovery by the government of Nicaragua of a plot to assassinate Secretary of State Knox on the occasion of his recent visit to the capital of that country, it is not improbable that a number of prominent "liberals" will be put to death, according to advices received here to-day from Bluefields.

Thirteen dynamite bombs placed beneath the road bed over which Secretary Knox's special train traveled from Corinto to Managua, and connected with an electric battery were discovered by government agents, and will be used as evidence against the conspirators.

Two score Zelayistas, or "liberals," are confined in the penitentiary at Managua and are held incommunicado pending the termination of the present investigation by the government.

On the day of Mr. Knox's arrival at Managua a bomb was exploded under the Chilmate Bridge, between Leon and La Ceiba, destroying a small portion of the track, but doing very little damage to the bridge.

Near this point four sections of the telegraph and telephone wires were cut. The thirteen dynamite bombs with the battery connections, were discovered between Posateca and Chichikilpa, carefully planted beneath the railroad tracks. The discovery of these bombs, it is said, was not made until after the Knox special train had passed on its way to the capital and the failure of the conspirators to get in their deadly work is believed to be due either to the lack of preparatory connections or the approach of guards who had been detailed to patrol the tracks.

Knox Bitterly Blamed.  
The bitterness displayed against Mr. Knox by the liberals of Nicaragua and other central American countries had its inception in the 1905 Nicaraguan revolution when Mr. Knox handed the Nicaraguan minister his passport after Greece and Cannon, Americans, had been shot by the revolutionary army. The liberals openly blamed Mr. Knox for the downfall of Zelaya, asserting that the revolutionists were openly aided by the United States government.

The so-called "dollar diplomacy" at the State Department has come in for extremely caustic criticism at the hands of prominent liberals. It is believed that Mr. Knox was advised of the discovery of the activities of the conspirators during the visit of President Diaz. It is said he cancelled his plans to stop at Granada en route back to Corinto from the capital.

Certain liberals who reside at Leon, where a bitter anti-American feeling has long existed, have been charged by the government with being the principals and it was deemed unwise to have Mr. Knox visit that place.

Consul Denies Reports.  
New Orleans, La., March 20.—Dr. Juan Cavala, consul of Nicaragua, to-day denied reports of the discovery of a plot to dynamite Secretary Knox's train March 5, when the Secretary visited Managua.

Dr. Cavala received a letter from Dr. Castillo, Nicaraguan minister in Washington, said Dr. Cavala, "in which he states that during the stay of Mr. Knox in Nicaragua there was not a single development to mar the visit."

## PUBLIC EMPLOYE IS VALET TO KNOX

His Private Servant  
Draws Salary From  
State Department.

## NOW WITH HIM ON SOUTHERN TOUR

Committee Is Investigating  
Charge Against Secretary of  
State—Wants to Know How  
Expenses of His Visit to  
Latin-American Repub-  
lics Are to Be Met.

Washington, March 20.—The House Committee on State Department Expenditures is investigating the statement that Secretary of State Knox uses as a private servant Archibald Pinkert, a negro carried on the State Department pay roll, and that Pinkert is accompanying Mr. Knox as valet on the present Central American tour.

"We have had Robert F. Clayton, superintendent of the State Department's mailing room, before us," said Chairman Hamilton, of the committee, to-day. "He told us that while Pinkert was carried upon the mailing room pay roll at \$1,200 a year, he has not been at work there since the beginning of the time in three years, and that the remainder of the time he was engaged at Secretary Knox's home in some capacity, just what we do not know."

Pinkert received the same salary as the superintendent of the mailing room. Clayton's testimony, Chairman Hamilton said, was supported by that of William McKen, chief clerk of the State Department.

The committee also inquired into the matter of defraying the expenses of the Secretary's Central American trip and the statement made by Controller Tracewell that it could not be paid for out of the secret emergency or diplomatic fund, but might come out of the horse and stable fund of the department, which is \$5,000.

Not Enough to Cover Expenses.  
McKer testified that the horse and stable fund would not pay one-sixteenth part of the trip.

"Where will the money come from, then?" Mr. Hamilton asked. "I do not know," Chief Clerk McKen replied.

State Department officials to-day said that Secretary Knox's expenses on tour of South and Central America were being paid by the emergency fund provided in the regular diplomatic and consular appropriation bill. The item reads: "To enable the President to meet unforeseen emergencies arising in the diplomatic and consular service and to extend the commercial and other interests of the United States."

It was explained that the expenses of the trip might also have been charged against the appropriation for explanation of trade relations. This explanation was called forth by the hearing to-day before the House committee.

At the department no comment was made as to the charge that the secretary uses one of the department laborers as a valet, though it is a small minority that has behind more serious and trivial. It is a small minority that stands behind the present law of master and servant, the sweatshops and the whole calendar of social and industrial injustice. It is a small minority that is to-day using our country as a dumping place for the will of a majority of the people in the choice of delegates to the Chicago convention. The only tyrannies from which men, women and children are suffering in real life are the tyrannies of the majority.

"No sane man who has been familiar with the government of this country for the last twenty years will complain that we have had too much of the rule of the majority. The trouble has been a different one, that at many times and in many localities there have been public office in the States and in the nation men who have, in fact, served not the whole people, but some special class or special interest. I am not thinking only of those special interests which are the result of bribery and crime, have stolen from the people. I am thinking as much of their respectable allies and legislators, who have ruled and legislated and decided as if in some way the vested rights of privilege had a first mortgage on the whole United States, while the rights of all the people were merely an unsecured debt."

Further Rule of Majority.  
"To further the rule of the majority," continued the speaker, "the progressive of the Republican party in certain States have formulated certain proposals for change in the form of the State government—certain 'checks and balances' which may check and balance the special interests and their allies."

There, there are the initiative and referendum, which are so framed that if the Legislatures obey the command of some special interest, and obstatine, by refuse the will of the majority, the majority may step in and legislate directly.

There, there is the direct primary—the real one, not the New York one—and that, too, the progressives offer as a check on the special interests. Most clearly of all does it seem to me that this change is wholly good for every State. The direct primary, if accompanied by a stringent corrupt practices act, will help break up corrupt partnership of corporations and politicians.

"So that no man may misunderstand me, let me recapitulate: 'I am not proposing anything in connection with the Supreme Court of the United States, or with the Federal Constitution.'"

"I am not proposing anything having any connection with ordinary suits, or technical viewpoint."

## COLONEL SCORES TAFT'S POSITION

Criticizes President's  
Talk of "Tyranny of  
the Majority."

## FIRST ADDRESS OF HIS CAMPAIGN

Roosevelt Stands by His Colum-  
bus Speech and Makes Fur-  
ther Appeal to "Plain Peo-  
ple"—Leads Fight Because  
He Must, Not Because  
He Wants To.

New York, March 20.—In his first speech of his campaign for the presidential nomination, Colonel Roosevelt to-night contrasted his position with that taken by President Taft. The real issue, he said, was whether the American people should govern themselves.

Colonel Roosevelt's speech was delivered before a crowd which filled Carnegie Hall. So many persons wished to hear him that an overflow meeting was held in a smaller hall within the same building. Colonel Roosevelt was received with marked enthusiasm.

Taft's recent speech at Toledo was referred to several times by Colonel Roosevelt, who devoted a large part of his remarks to a reply. "The great fundamental issue now before the Republican party and before all people can be stated briefly. It is, Are the American people to govern themselves, to rule themselves, to control themselves? I believe they are. My opponents do not."

With these words Colonel Roosevelt opened his speech. His subject was "The Right of the People to Rule." The speech, delivered at Carnegie Hall under the auspices of the Civic Forum, elaborated much that Colonel Roosevelt said in his Columbus (O.) address, and answered in detail certain arguments of the Taft campaign. "I stand on the 'Columbus speech,'" said Colonel Roosevelt, "the principles there asserted are not new, but I believe that they are necessary to the maintenance of free democratic government."

Believes in the People.  
After his opening declaration, Colonel Roosevelt continued:

"I believe in the right of the people to rule. I believe that the majority of the plain people of the United States will do it, and I do not make fewer mistakes in governing them than any smaller class or body of men, no matter what their training, will make in trying to govern them. I am, again, that the American people are, as a whole, capable of self-control and of bearing the responsibilities of their own government. Our opponents pay lip-loyalty to this doctrine, but they show their real beliefs by the way in which they champion every device to make the nomination of the people a sham."

"I have scant patience with this talk of the tyranny of the majority. Whenever there is tyranny of the majority, I shall protest against it with all my heart and soul. But we are to-day suffering from the tyranny of a minority of the people. It is a small minority that is grabbing our coal deposits, our water powers and our harbor fronts. A small minority is battering on the side of adulterated foods and drugs. It is a small minority that has behind more serious and trivial. It is a small minority that stands behind the present law of master and servant, the sweatshops and the whole calendar of social and industrial injustice. It is a small minority that is to-day using our country as a dumping place for the will of a majority of the people in the choice of delegates to the Chicago convention. The only tyrannies from which men, women and children are suffering in real life are the tyrannies of the majority."

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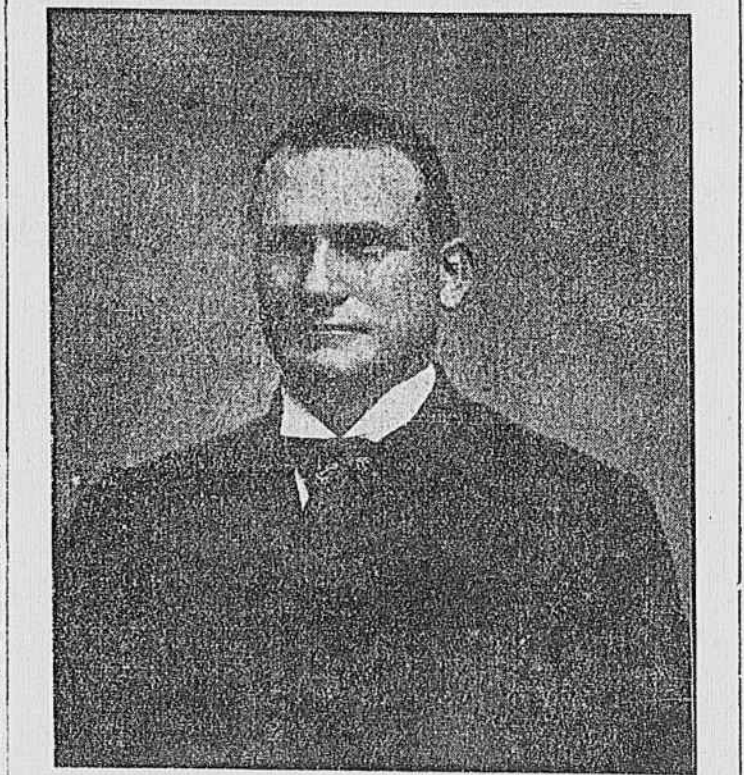
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## CHOICE OF NINTH DISTRICT DEMOCRATS FOR CONGRESS



HON. RUFUS A. AYERS.

## NO RESULTS COME FROM CONFERENCE

Coal Miners and Operators Still  
Far Apart in Their  
Grievances.

## STRIKE IS INEVITABLE

Many Thousands Will Be Thrown  
Out of Employment  
on April 1.

Cleveland, Ohio, March 20.—Wage discussions between the operators and representatives of 200,000 union miners in the bituminous coal fields of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, held in an effort to avert a prolonged suspension of business after April 1, and also to avert a possible strike, to-day were without definite results. The prospect that all the bituminous coal mines would be closed down after the first of the month, pending the making of a new two-year working and wage agreement, was said to be imminent. It also was said that the present pay is based either on States would leave the union bituminous coal miners in other States without a basis upon which to work, and they would have to close, entailing idleness for more than 350,000 miners per ton mined.

After to-day's conference adjourned, the present the union officials and operators announced that only the first of the miners' demands had been considered and no vote had been taken. This demand is that all the men be paid the "run of the mine" basis. At the present the pay is based either on a ton screened or sifted from the smaller lumps and dust, or at a smaller rate for coal unscreened. The "run of mine" basis, already in use in some States, would provide for a flat rate per ton mined, regardless of whether it was screened or not.

In the readjustment on that basis the miners demand an increase of 10 cents a ton over the average price now paid. They also want shorter working hours.

Demand of Operators.  
As an offset to the miners' demands the operators ask a 10 per cent. reduction in the present rate. It was pointed out that a continuation of the present scale would be in the nature of a compromise between the opposing demands, but the miners assert they will not return to work without more pay and a material shortening of hours.

Asked if he considered to-day's conference indicated an early settlement, John P. White, president of the United Mine Workers of America, who, with eight union officials from each of the four States directly concerned, is pressing the demands, said:

"To-day's conference makes merely a skirmish. It does not indicate anything. It is apparent, however, that the bituminous coal mines will close on April 1, because no agreement can be reached before then, and even if an agreement is reached it will have to be submitted to a vote of the union or the operators will have to be called in conference. Of course, we cannot continue working without an agreement."

"Will a strike be called if the present conference fails to agree?" Mr. White was asked.

"That should be left to the imagination," he replied.

J. G. Kelsen, of Terre Haute, Ind., who was appointed spokesman for the thirty-two operators here, said the operators regarded a suspension as unavoidable.

Conference Postponed.  
Washington, March 20.—President Taft to-day postponed indefinitely his proposed conference with John Mitchell regarding the coal situation. This announcement from the White House, unaccompanied by any reason for the change in plans, followed closely by a conference between the President and Secretary of Commerce and Labor, Nagel, who saw the President shortly after his return from New England.

While officials were extremely reticent as to the cause of the postponement, it was generally believed that the operators regarded a suspension as unavoidable.

(Continued on Seventh Page.)

## NINTH DISTRICT DEMOCRATS NAME GENERAL AYERS

Former Attorney General  
Will Make Race  
for Congress.

## HIS SELECTION IS UNANIMOUS

Convention Wild With Enthu-  
siasm When Widely Known  
Party Man Accepts Call to  
Bear Colors in Fight.  
Against Continuance of  
C. B. Sleep in Office.

Bristol, Va., March 20.—General Rufus A. Ayers, of Big Stone Gap, former Attorney-General of Virginia, and member of the last Constitutional Convention, was the unanimous choice of the Democratic convention of the Virginia Ninth District held here to-day to nominate a candidate for Congress. Following caucuses held in the hotel, during the forenoon, it was announced that General Ayers, if nominated, would accept. This virtually settled the matter, for all others who had expressed a willingness to be the party standard-bearer withdrew, and it was almost denoting. The General Ayers was placed in nomination by Hon. R. Tate Irvine, of Big Stone Gap, the delegates went wild with enthusiasm. Hats and handkerchiefs were tossed in the air and the applause was almost deafening. The scene was repeated when General Ayers, after he had received the unanimous vote of the convention, came forward and accepted the nomination.

In facing General Ayers in nomination, Mr. Irvine referred eloquently to his political career and to his business struggles in Bristol, Gate City and Big Stone Gap. He told of how in his earlier years General Ayers had supported the widow and mother with loyalty and devotion due from a true son, and declared that his example in that regard was but typical of the manner in which he had met every duty, whether to his party, his church or to his fellowmen. He recalled to his splendid record as Attorney-General of the State, and to his telling services later in the Constitutional Convention, and in emphasis of how General Ayers has always stood by his convictions, and has never faltered, he recalled the time when, in connection with the State debt case, he would not yield his honest convictions to spare himself a prison sentence at the hands of Federal judges, and he fought his way out upon honorable grounds, having been vindicated by the Supreme Court. Mr. Irvine declared that, if nominated, General Ayers would stand by what he believed to be right, and he would, even if by doing so he should know it meant defeat at the polls.

Sounds Keynote.  
In his speech of acceptance, General Ayers sounded the keynote of the campaign. He assured the convention that he appreciated the honor conferred, and would do his utmost to carry the party to victory, he said: "I ask your support, I ask that you hold up my hands; that you solicit me upon principle and not for dollars. I would rather be in defeat than accept a bought certificate. I want to see the time come when an honorable young man, whether he be a man of means or not, can aspire to office and be elected upon principle and without having to make a debate elections will be a relief of the past. By your help and by the active support of the district committee, I hope to be able to lift our party above the mire of dishonest and disgraceful politics. I feel sure that I will have the hearty co-operation of the masses."

Relative to his own party loyalty, General Ayers said: "I have for forty-two years helped to fight the battles of Democracy, and have never faltered. Some have said that at times I did not vote for the nominee, but I want to assure this convention that not once in forty-two years, from the time I was old enough to cast my first vote, have I ever failed to support a Democratic nominee."

General Ayers' remarks were heartily applauded, and when the convention adjourned it was with a feeling that no better day's work could possibly have been done.

The convention was perhaps larger than that which nominated Henry C. Stuart two years ago. It was held in the same place as the Stuart convention—the Harmeling Theatre—and practically every seat in the parquet and balcony was occupied and many persons were standing in the aisles. Every county was represented by a large delegation, and the personnel of the men typified the highest intelligence, indicating that the coming fight of the Democracy in the Ninth District has the hearty sympathy of the best men in the party in every county. The assembling of the convention at noon was marked by the playing of thrilling national airs by the Marion Band, which had come to Bristol purposely for the occasion.

By the noon hour, the theatre was well filled to its capacity, and when the train bearing the bulk of the delegates from Dickenson, Wise, Lee and Scott arrived there were few if any seats in the theatre vacant.

During the early hours of the day, it looked very much as if John W. Chaikley, of the House of Delegates, representing Wise and Dickenson jointly, might be made the nominee. His name and the names of Bert T. Wilson, of Russell; Haynes L. Morgan, of Wythe, and E. Lee Triplett, of Giles, were among those freely discussed among the groups of delegates. It was understood that any one of these men probably would accept. Hon. R. Irvine, of Wise county, had been prominently mentioned by several voters, but it was learned before the conven-

tion that it was learned before the conven-

(Continued on Eighth Page.)